Message Text

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PAGE 01 ATHENS 05292 011844Z

47

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 IO-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 AID-20 ACDA-19 SCCT-02 DRC-01 $/157~\mathrm{W}$

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R 011550Z AUG 74

FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4707

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

USMISSION GENEVA

USMISSION NATO

USMISSION NEW YORK

AMCONSUL THESSALONIKI

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E.O. 11652: N/A TAGS: PINS, GR

SUBJECT: ANDREAS PAPANDREOU'S PRESS OFFICE ISSUES BACK-TRACKING

STATEMENT

- 1. ATHENS NEWSPAPERS AUGUST 1 CARRIED THE FOLLOWING ANNOUNCEMENT ISSUED BY ANDREAS PAPANDREOU'S ROME PRESS OFFICE: QTE WHATEVER HAS BEEN PUBLISHED IN THE ATHENS DAILY NEWSPAPERS IN THE FORM OF INTERVIEWS AND/OR STATEMENTS BY MR. PAPANDREOU REGARDING THE FOUNDATION OF A POLITICAL PARTY, PROGRAMMING, ETC., AS WELL AS REFERENCES TO DISCUSSIONS WITH OTHER GROUPINGS, DO NOT CORRESPOND TO THE TRUTH UNQTE.
- 2. COMMENT: IT IS NOT CLEAR WHICH STATEMENTS THE ROME PRESS OFFICE IS ASSAILING BUT IT MIGHT BE AIMED AT A RECENT INTERVIEW GIVEN BY GREEK COMMUNIST PARTY (KKE-INTERIOR) SECRETARY HARALAMBOS DRAKOPOULOS (ATHENS-5204) WHICH ALLEGED THE FORMATION OF A COORDINATING COMMITTEE OF THE "FORCES OF THE LEFT" TO LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 02 ATHENS 05292 011844Z

PREPARE A JOINT STATEMENT ON THE PROBLEMS OF GREECE. IN THAT

INTERVIEW, DRAKOPOULOS ALLEGED THAT THE COMMITTEE WOULD INCLUDE REPRESENTATIVES OF ANDREAS PAPANDREOU. IT IS ALSO POSSIBLE THAT THE ROME PRESS OFFICE IS ATTEMPTING TO DISAVOW WHOLLY OR IN PART AN ALLEGED INTERVIEW GIVEN BY PAPANDREOU TO THE DANISH NEWSPAPER POLITIKEN (ATHENS 5209) IN WHICH HE ASSERTED HE WAS PREPARED TO TURN HIS PAN-HELLENIC LIBERATION MOVEMENT (PAK) INTO A LEFTIST POLITICAL PARTY - ONE WHICH WOULD "GO FURTHER THAN SCANDINAVIA'S SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC PARTIES." IF THE ABOVE INTERVIEWS WERE IN FACT THE TARGETS OF THE ROME PRESS OFFICE STATEMENT, PERHAPS IT INDICATES THAT PAPANDREOU DOES NOT WISH TO BE TIED TOO CLOSELY TO ANY ONE FACTION AT THIS TIME (I.E. DRAKOPOULOS AND THE KKE INTERIOR PARTY) NOR DOES HE WISH TO ALIENATE HIS POSSIBLE FUTURE FOLLOWERS FROM CENTRIST GROUPINGS WHO MIGHT RESIST ASSOCIATION WITH A LEADER ESPOUSING A POLITICAL PHILOSPHY ALIEN TO GREECE'S TRADITIONS, I.E. ONE FURTHER LEFT THAN SCANDINAVIA'S DEMOCRATIC SOCIALIST MODELS. TASCA

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994 Channel Indicators: n/a

Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED

Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, POLITICAL LEADERS, PARTY ORGANIZATION, POLITICAL PARTIES

Control Number: n/a Copy: SINGLE Draft Date: 01 AUG 1974 Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960 Decaption Note: Disposition Action: RELEASED Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: boyleja
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 19744THENIS05292

Document Number: 1974ATHENS05292 Document Source: CORE Document Unique ID: 00

Drafter: n/a Enclosure: n/a Executive Order: N/A Errors: N/A

Film Number: D740209-1248

From: ATHENS

Handling Restrictions: n/a

Image Path:

Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740883/aaaacttf.tel Line Count: 78

Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM

Office: ACTION EUR

Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE Original Handling Restrictions: n/a

Original Previous Classification: n/a Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a

Page Count: 2

Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a

Reference: n/a

Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED Review Authority: boyleja

Review Comment: n/a Review Content Flags: Review Date: 14 MAY 2002

Review Event:

Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <14 MAY 2002 by boyleja>; APPROVED <25 FEB 2003 by boyleja>

Review Markings:

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier: Review Referrals: n/a Review Release Date: n/a Review Release Event: n/a **Review Transfer Date:** Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a

Secure: OPEN Status: NATIVE

Subject: ANDREAS PAPANDREOU'S PRESS OFFICE ISSUES BACK-TRACKING STATEMENT

TAGS: PINS, GR, (PAPANDREOU, ANDREAS)

To: STATE

Type: TE

Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005